



The Fair Oaks District Community Connection

Tips on a Successful 2009!



The Fairfax County Police Department wishes our citizens a happy, healthy, stress-free year ahead. This issue of The Fair Oaks District Community Connection prepares you for a successful New Year.

Our focus in this issue is child safety and child supervision guidelines, protecting your vehicle and its contents and tips to reduce your chances of becoming a victim of burglary. We also focused on driving while intoxicated arrest statistics and laws pertaining to DWI violations.

The information shared here applies to individual citizens and businesses. Through education we hope to keep you, your family and each other safe from harm and out of the court system.

Remember, knowledge is power and should be shared with family, friends and coworkers. We look forward to building many community relationships this year and bridging any gaps that may weaken our desired partnerships.



Happy New Year from the Fair Oaks District Police Station!

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Events of Interest

- New Year's Day, January 1
- Neighborhood Watch training , January 13
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, January 19
- Chinese New Year, January 26



Neighborhood Watch Training Dates for 2009!

The Fair Oaks District Police Station is offering four training dates for the Neighborhood Watch Program to be held at the station, located at 12300 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, at 7:00 p.m. in the roll call room. These opportunities are designed for communities that want to expand their existing Neighborhood Watch participation, those who wish to begin a new Watch program or those who would like a refresher course.

We look forward to serving you and maintaining the quality of community and police partnerships that we have both come to depend on and enjoy.

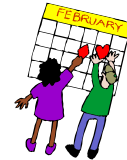
The training dates are as follows:

- Tuesday, January 13, 2009
- Tuesday, April 14, 2009
- Tuesday, July 14, 2009
- Tuesday, October 13, 2009

Mark Your Calendars



NOW!



Request a Neighborhood Watch Program for Your Community Today!

The requirement is a short and simple one-time, two-hour training commitment. Learn how to detect, react to and report criminal or suspicious behaviors. Know how to better protect yourself and your community.

For more information, contact one of your Crime Prevention Officers at the Fair Oaks District Police Station: MPO Sophia Grinnan at sophia.grinnan@fairfaxcounty.gov or PFC Wayne Twombly at 703-352-2163. Thank you.



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH MEMBERS AND CAC MEMBERS PLEASE READ!



Citizen's Advisory Committee and Neighborhood Watch meeting dates will be separated!

CAC meetings will still be held on the last Tuesday of every month at the Fair Oaks District Station roll call room at 7:30 p.m. Neighborhood Watch members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Neighborhood Watch meetings will convene at 7 p.m. at the same location; we will change to quarterly instead of monthly dates. This will afford your Crime Prevention Officers the opportunity to focus more attention on you and your community concerns.

The new Neighborhood Watch meeting dates are as follows:

- Tuesday, March 10, 2009
- Tuesday, June 9, 2009
- Tuesday, September 8, 2009
- Tuesday, December 8, 2009



Ten Tips for Keeping Kids Safe



Never shake a baby. Jerking or violently shaking a baby is equal to dropping a baby head-first onto a hard surface from a height of 10 feet. It can cause brain damage, blindness or even death.

Put healthy babies down to sleep on their backs. Medical experts believe putting healthy babies down to sleep on their backs may reduce the risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome.

Consult a doctor about your baby. For more information, call the National SIDS/Infant Death Resource Center at 1-866-866-7437

Be careful of who cares for your child. Choose experienced caregivers who like children. Discuss your child's needs, habits and schedule. Communicate your rules and expectations. Make sure the caretaker knows what to do in an emergency. Check in often. For more information, contact the Department of Family Services at 703-449-8484 and TTY 703-222-9452 or visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ofc/>

Don't leave children home alone until they can be responsible. Infants and young children need full-time care and supervision – and no child or young teen should be left alone overnight. Leaving youngsters alone for short periods is a matter of maturity. Can your child follow rules (stay inside, no cooking, don't open the door to strangers)? Have you role-played what to do in case of fire, injury or other emergency? Is there a safe place to go if necessary? Does your child know how to contact you? A rebellious teen may need more supervision than a responsible 11-year-old. Check out Fairfax County's Child Supervision Guidelines.

Never leave children alone in a car. In summer, a closed car can quickly heat up to dangerous levels. In winter, a closed car left running can lead to carbon monoxide poisoning. Children alone in cars are also easy targets for carjackers or kidnappers.

Know how to spot a depressed child. In the U.S., nearly 2,000 youngsters, ages 10 - 19, committed suicide in 2000, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Depression is often a factor. Watch for: persistent sadness and/or irritability; low self-esteem or feelings of worthlessness; increase or decrease in activity, eating or sleeping; loss of interest in favorite activities; difficulty concentrating; anger and rage; headaches, stomach aches, or other physical pains that seem to have no cause; preoccupation with death or suicide. If your child has any of these symptoms, call Public Mental Health Treatment Information and Referral at 703-481- 4230; Spanish 703-799-2838; TTY 703-481-4110.

Learn about child development. Learning what you can expect from children at each growth stage makes parenting easier. A handy guide, "Understanding and Guiding Children as They Grow and Develop," is available on our Web site. Helpful information is also available at your local library, bookstore or the Internet at Zero to Three® (www.zerotothree.org), National Association for the Education of Young Children (www.naeyc.org) or call 1-800-CHILDREN (245-3736). The Department of Family Services also offers parenting education classes.

Help for parents and teens during the adolescent years. Here are some 24 hour, 7 days a week resources that may be helpful in dealing with challenging adolescents: Alternative House counseling hotline, 1-800-SAY-TEEN (729-8336); Crisis Link/Teen Hotline, 703-527-4077.

Use discipline to teach. Over many years, children develop good judgment or self-control through training and guidance from caring adults. Discipline is an important teaching tool. It involves being consistent, setting limits and giving age appropriate choices. For advice, seek out books available on effective discipline of children and teens or find a local parenting program at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs.



Child Protective Services Hotline: 703-324-7400; TTY 703-222-9452;
<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/childrenyouth/abuse/neglect.htm>

Fairfax County Department of Family Services

(Guidelines for Child Supervision)

Before leaving a child unsupervised/unattended, the following should be considered:

- There must be no emotional, medical or behavioral problems which affect judgment or decision-making skills.
- The child must be comfortable being alone.
- The youth must have a safety plan worked out with the parent/caretaker, which includes:
 - How to access a parent or other responsible adult at all times (including knowing the parent/caretaker's whereabouts and having a telephone number where parent can be reached).
 - What to do in case of an emergency.
 - Guidelines for acceptable behavior.
 - Knowledge of emergency telephone numbers.
- The youth must demonstrate the ability to follow the safety plan and to make decisions that reflect concern for personal safety.

Remember...Happy Childhoods Last a Lifetime!



Child Supervision Guidelines

7 years & under:	Should not be left alone for any period of time. This may include leaving children unattended in cars, playgrounds and backyards. The determining consideration would be the dangers in the environment and the ability of the caretaker to intervene.
8 to 10 years:	Should not be left alone for more than 1½ hours and only during daylight and early evening hours.
11 to 12 years:	May be left alone for up to 3 hours but not late at night or in circumstances requiring inappropriate responsibility.
13 to 15 years:	May be left unsupervised, but not overnight.
16 to 17 years:	May be left unsupervised. In some cases, for up to two consecutive overnight periods.

Reduce Your Chances of Becoming a Burglary Victim

Protect Yourself and Your Home or Business!



1. Lock all your doors. Consider installing quality locks.
2. Lock all your windows and patio doors. Consider protective window films.
3. Be sure your valuables are not visible from outside.
4. Keep shrubbery around your property trimmed and low.
5. Make your home appear occupied. Consider placing your lights and TVs on timers.
6. Get to know your neighbors and look out for each other's property, especially when you are on vacation.
7. Light the exterior of your home or business during hours of darkness.
8. Immediately report suspicious noises, people, vehicles or incidents.
9. Be involved with your Neighborhood or Business Watch.
10. Draw your curtains or blinds after dark.
11. Illuminate the inside of your business at the end of the day.
12. Don't clutter your doors and windows with signage or decoration that could prevent you from observing the outside.
13. If a repair person or stranger is in your home or business keep valuables out of sight.

Contact your Crime Prevention Unit for a

FREE home or business security survey

Fair Oaks District Crime Prevention Officers:

MPO Sophia Grinnan at sophia.grinnan@fairfaxcounty.gov

or PFC Wayne Twombly at 703-352-2163



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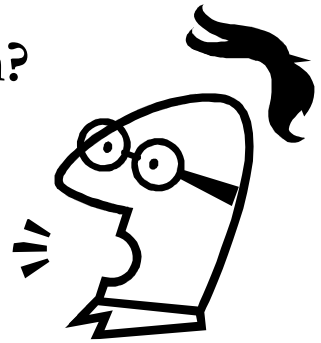
An Increase in Thefts from Vehicles Yields Yet Another Reminder...



The Fair Oaks District has experienced an **INCREASE** in thefts from vehicles!

How are they breaking in?

- Breaking windows
- Entering through unlocked doors
- Bypassing locking systems



How do you protect your valuables?

TAKE THEM OUT OF YOUR VEHICLE!

The reason people steal personal belongings from your car is because they see something they want. Remember, what is not valuable to you may be the object of their desire.



PLEASE take the extra time to **physically** remove your CD player, blue tooth, laptop, GPS, CDs, purse, radio, etc. from your vehicle. Remove any empty bags or briefcases to relieve the criminals' curiosities.

Render your car **UNATTRACTIVE**



*A Fairfax County, Va. Publication
December, 2008*



Vehicle Theft Opportunities



In cold winter months, people start their cars before work to warm them up. Many people also keep their engines running while a quick stop is made into a convenience store. Unfortunately, vehicles that are left idling, unattended and unlocked are more susceptible to be targets of theft.

The Crime Prevention Unit suggests the following tips to reduce the opportunity for these crimes to occur:

- Do not leave your car unattended with the keys in the ignition.
- If you must leave your car engine running, use a second key or keyless remote to lock the doors.
- Use a locking device for your steering wheel whenever you can.
- Be alert to your surroundings (suspicious persons, vehicles, noises).
- Remember, these are crimes of opportunity. They will occur anytime circumstances permit.



Please remember to report all suspicious activity immediately by calling:

Emergency: 9-1-1 and Non-Emergency: 703-691-2131

Driving While Intoxicated Arrests as of 11/12/08...

The New Year brings with it holidays where having a celebratory beverage or two isn't uncommon. When consuming alcoholic beverages, consider designating a driver or plan on spending the night. Let's strive for a **ZERO FATALATY RATE** in 2009 for alcohol related crashes . The Fairfax County Police Department observes a zero tolerance for drinking and driving.

Please consider your alternatives; don't let jail be one of them.

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2004	213	188	219	222	263	218	201	214	224	256	218	425	2,861
2005	248	195	235	219	244	327	260	234	249	240	227	330	3,008
2006	209	176	215	222	190	193	314	256	193	212	238	368	2,786
2007	187	159	223	189	219	234	244	250	218	171	234	260	2,588
2008	191	205	246	232	244	335	306	250	219	217	13	?	2,458
Total	1,048	923	1,138	1,084	1,160	1,307	1,325	1,204	1,103	1,096	930	1,383	13,701



Dodge a Ticket...Did You Know?



§ 18.2-266 Driving motor vehicle, engine, etc., while intoxicated, etc.

It shall be unlawful for any person to drive or operate any motor vehicle, engine or train (i) while such person has a blood alcohol concentration of 0.08 percent or more by weight by volume or 0.08 grams or more per 210 liters of breath as indicated by a chemical test administered as provided in this article, (ii) while such person is under the influence of alcohol, (iii) while such person is under the influence of any narcotic drug or any other self-administered intoxicant or drug of whatsoever nature, or any combination of such drugs, to a degree which impairs his ability to drive or operate any motor vehicle, engine or train safely, (iv) while such person is under the combined influence of alcohol and any drug or drugs to a degree which impairs his ability to drive or operate any motor vehicle, engine or train safely, or (v) while such person has a blood concentration of any of the following substances at a level that is equal to or greater than: (a) 0.02 milligrams of cocaine per liter of blood, (b) 0.1 milligrams of methamphetamine per liter of blood, (c) 0.01 milligrams of phencyclidine per liter of blood, or (d) 0.1 milligrams of 3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine per liter of blood. A charge alleging a violation of this section shall support a conviction under clauses (i), (ii), (iii), (iv), or (v).

For the purposes of this article, the term "motor vehicle" includes mopeds, while operated on the public highways of this Commonwealth.

§ 18.2-268.3 Refusal of tests; penalties; procedures.

It shall be unlawful for a person who is arrested for a violation of § 18.2-266, 18.2-266.1, or subsection B of § 18.2-272 or of a similar ordinance to unreasonably refuse to have samples of his blood or breath or both blood and breath taken for chemical tests to determine the alcohol or drug content of his blood as required by § 18.2-268.2 and any person who so unreasonably refuses is guilty of a violation of this section.

§ 18.2-270 Penalty for driving while intoxicated; subsequent offense; prior conviction.

Except as otherwise provided herein, any person violating any provision of § 18.2-266 shall be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor with a mandatory minimum fine of \$250. If the person's blood alcohol level as indicated by the chemical test administered as provided in this article was at least 0.15, but not more than 0.20, he shall be confined in jail for an additional mandatory minimum period of five days or, if the level was more than 0.20, for an additional mandatory minimum period of 10 days.

§ 18.2-271 Forfeiture of driver's license for driving while intoxicated.

Except as provided in § 18.2-271.1, the judgment of conviction if for a first offense under § 18.2-266 or for a similar offense under any county, city, or town ordinance, or for a first offense under subsection A of § 46.2-341.24, shall of itself operate to deprive the person so convicted of the privilege to drive or operate any motor vehicle, engine or train in the Commonwealth for a period of one year from the date of such judgment. This suspension period shall be in addition to the suspension period provided under § 46.2-391.2.

The Fairfax County Police Department has a ZERO tolerance for DWI and will be out in full force.

**What does 2009 have in store for you?
Drink responsibly, and you may live to find out!**



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Fairfax, Virginia 22033

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Commander, Captain Paul Thornton
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Asst. Commander,
ILieutenant Ed O'Carroll
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Crime Prevention Unit:
703-352-2163

Fairfax County Crime Solvers:
1-866-411-TIPS or 703-691-8888

Fairfax County Police:
Non-Emergency: 703-691-2131

Citizen Reporting System:
(for reports not requiring officer response)
 Call the non-emergency number at
 703-691-2131 or report online at
www.fairfaxcounty.gov to public safety,
 police department.



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Farewell 2008



Another year has passed us by and again, we have enjoyed working with and serving you. We have made some incredible partnerships along the way and strive for even better in the coming year.

Our Citizen's Advisory Committee has brought officers close to their communities through positive interactions; we thank you so much for the opportunity to meet our citizens during joyous times.

Our Neighborhood Watch has grown by over 10 new community memberships who have definitely made differences in their neighborhoods; we are thankful for the extra sets of eyes and ears that help guide us in protecting you.

We began our Seniors and Law Enforcement Together committee in an effort to learn the needs and concerns of our senior community. Thank you to Louis Beck for heading the program and to all those who are involved.

The Fair Oaks District hosted a community forum at which time we met with 112 concerned citizens who helped in the battle against theft from vehicles. Thank you so much to all those who attended. Through our united efforts, vehicle tampering and theft from vehicles declined over the months following the meeting.

We concentrated great efforts to educate first and then enforce laws governing child passenger safety, speeding, aggressive driving and other violations that could have fatal repercussions.

The year 2008 was successful and together we paved a great foundation for a productive 2009.

GOODBYE 2008...HELLO 2009!



POLICE-FIRE-RESCUE

EMERGENCY

9-1-1

NON-EMERGENCY

703-691-2131

FAIRFAX COUNTY

